

SWCS COLORADO CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

February 2008



President's Message

By Jorge A. Delgado



I would like to say hello to all the SWCS Colorado members, especially the new members that joined our chapter during the last few months (Calvin Melcher, Michael Daskam, Julie Kallenberger, and Kevin Roberson). The Colorado Chapter is part of the Soil and Water Conservation Society, a great professional organization with over 5000 national and international members. Members' primary concern is for national and international soil and water conservation. The SWCS publishes one of the best soil and water conservation journals in the world. The Journal of Soil and Water Conservation, is constantly ranked very highly worldwide. During 2007, our Journal was ranked 16th out of 57 international Water Resources Journals for total citations. This is a good resource for our members to look for current information about soil and water conservation advances and issues.

Soil and water conservation practices are necessary to maintain soil productivity and to continue to feed of our swiftly increasing global population. Soil and water conservation is the key for viable economical agroecosystem. It also benefits the environment and conserves soil and water quality, needed for a healthy society. The SWCS provides the forum for conservationists, researchers, scientists, and conservation practitioners to work through the SWCS's national and state chapters to exchange technical information that addresses national and global soil and water conservation challenges. I would like to congratulate all of you for becoming members of a professional society with such honorable national and international goals and for actively participating in the technology transfer efforts of conservation for sustainable and viable agricultural systems.

At the national, regional, and state level our Chapter is very active and productive. I would like to thank the Colorado members for their long-outstanding efforts and achievements. The chapter was successful in putting together the 2007 "Soil and Water Conservation for Viable Biofuels Systems" conference in Colorado Springs, CO last November. This is a typical event that exemplifies our chapter's interaction with the Colorado community, peers, and state public. Prominent national, regional, and local speakers participated in this forum and contributed to the exchange of information about the new biofuels systems challenges and alternatives that consider soil and water conservation. The participants earned continuing education credits (CEU), another great activity and contribution from our chapter to Colorado members and the public. I want to thank the chapter's members for developing such an outstanding conference as well as the public that attended the meetings and the speakers from Colorado State University, USDA-ARS, USDA-NRCS, University of Colorado, the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, and the private sector, without whom such a successful conference could not have taken place.

Our chapter is full of soil and water experts with a flair for technology transfer in soil and water conservation. They are a great group of members that believe in viable sustainable soil and water conservation systems for a better society and environment. Soil and water conservation improvements touch the lives of people all over the world, but especially in Colorado. I congratulate all of our members for their great spirits, energy, and contributions. During the last decade, this chapter has put together two national meetings, one regional meeting, ten state conferences, and several tours. I am proud of the national, regional, and state leadership of our members and

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congratulate them for their exemplary contributions to science and community.

I am looking forward to our 2008 year with excitement, as we will be working on developing the 2008 summer tour and the 2008 State Conference. This is a great chapter of which to be a member. It is a great network of professionals, all experts in soil and water conservation, and our chapter is deeply connected to regional, national, and international soil and water conservation efforts. Again, I thank all of you for your contributions; I am looking forward to working with you during 2008. Keep up the good work and enthusiasm.

As soon as we develop more information for our 2008 activities we will post them at our website: <http://colorado.swcs.org/>. Information will also be available by phone at 970-492-7260.

We are always looking for suggestions and for conservation programs to Sponsor! Contact a board member or email your suggestions with a brief description of the program. The SWCS Board and I are always open to your comments. You may contact any of the board members or you may contact me at jdelgado@lamar.colostate.edu.

NEW BOARD OFFICERS FOR 2008

President: Jorge Delgado
President-Elect: Ardell Halverson
Secretary-Treasurer: Renee Koch
East Slope Director: Beth Fortman
West Slope Director: John Scott
At-Large Director: Dawn Jackson

Please refer to Officers/Committee Chair page at end of newsletter for contact information

LOCAL HAPPENINGS:

Great Plains Soil Fertility Conference to be held March 4-5, 2008 at the DoubleTree Hotel (303-321-3333), 3202 Quebec Street, Denver, Colorado. All interested SWCS members and others are welcome to attend. Topic include: Biofuel Crops and Nutrients; Greenhouse Gases and Atmospheric Depositions; N Management; Soil Fertility and Cropping Systems; and Nutrient Management. Registration is \$130 before February 20, 2008 and \$150 after February 20th and at the door. Registration includes a conference proceedings. Please refer to the International Plant Institute website for the full agenda and registration information: www.IPNI.net/gpsfc. Certified Crop Advisor CEU's have been requested: 5.5 Nutrient Management, 2.0 Soil and Water, 0.5 Crop Management.

Northern Plains Regional Meeting

The Annual Northern Plains Regional Meeting will be held in Rapid City, SD March 6-8, 2008. Click on the link below for the full agenda. Interested members should contact any of the Board Members for further information about attendance and travel plans.

<http://www.ndswcs.org/documents/2008%20NP%20SWCS%20Program.pdf>



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REGIONAL SCIENCE FAIRS JUDGED BY COLORADO CHAPTER MEMBERS

Regional Fair Counties Served	Regional Fair Director Contact Information	2007/2008 Fair Information
12th Arkansas Valley Regional Science Fair Counties: Crowley, Huerfano, Las Animas, Otero	Aaron Reyes Phone: 719-384-6845 FAX: 719-384-6917 aaron.reyes@ojc.edu	February 21 - 23, 2008 Otero Junior College La Junta, CO
36th Roche (Boulder Valley) Regional Science Fair Counties: Boulder, Gilpin	Jennifer Barr Phone: 303-447-5087 FAX: 303-447-5255 jennifer.barr@bvsd.k12.co.us	March 6 & 8, 2008 University of Colorado - Boulder Boulder, CO
44th Denver Metro Regional Science Fair Counties: Adams, Arapahoe, Broomfield, Clear Creek, Denver, Douglas, Grand, Jefferson, Summit	Jim Stevens Phone: 303-724-0424 Cell: 303-921-1076 FAX: 303-724-3005 science.fair@uchsc.edu	February 27 & 28, 2008 Denver Museum of Nature & Science Denver, CO
East Central Colorado Regional Science Fair Counties: Kit Carson, Lincoln	William Mallory Phone: 719-743-2428 FAX: 719-743-2194 will@esrta.com	March 4, 2008 Lincoln County Fair Grounds Hugo, CO
37th Longs Peak Regional Science Fair Counties: Jackson, Larimer, Weld	Lori Ball Phone: 970-351-2976 FAX: 970-351-1269 slori.ball@un	March 10, 2008 University of Northern Colorado Greeley, CO

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	co.edu	
53rd Morgan/Washington Bi-County Regional Science Fair Counties: Morgan, Washington	Elemer Bernath Phone: 970-867-6235 eb2527@peoplepc.com	March 3 & 4, 2008 Brush High School Brush, CO
53rd Northeast Colorado Regional Science Fair Counties: Logan, Phillips, Sedgwick, Yuma	Kari Kilmer Phone: 307-745-7036 FAX: 307-745-7036 ne.co.scifari@hotmail.com	February 28, 2008 Northeastern Junior College Sterling, CO
48th Pikes Peak Regional Science Fair Counties: Elbert, El Paso, Park, Teller	Georgia Matteson Phone: 719-572-3957 gpmbaron@aoi.com	March 1, 2008 University of Colorado - Colorado Springs Colorado Springs, CO
50th San Juan Basin Regional Science Fair Counties: Archuleta, Dolores, Hinsdale, La Plata, Montezuma, San Juan	Steve Otter Phone: 970-749-6400 FAX: 970-247-8333 sotter@sjbocs.org	March 5 & 6, 2008 LaPlata County Fairgrounds Durango, CO
59th San Luis Valley Regional Science Fair Counties: Alamosa, Chaffee, Conejos, Costilla, Mineral, Rio Grande, Saguache	Lucy Adams Phone: 719-589-5851 FAX: 719-589-5007 laadams@adams.edu	February 7 & 8, 2008 Adams State College Alamosa, CO
Southeast Colorado Regional Science Fair Counties: Baca, Bent, Cheyenne, Kiowa, Prowers	Terri Lira Phone: 719-336-7413 FAX: 719-336-0547 terri.lira@lamar.k12.co.us	LCC Wellness Center Lamar, CO
6th Southern Colorado Regional Science Fair Counties: Custer, Fremont, Pueblo	Carol Crossley Phone: 719-276-5722 FAX: 719-	February 28 & 29, 2008 Canon City Middle School Canon City, CO

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	276-3739 crosslc@canon.k12.co.us	
52nd Western Colorado Regional Science Fair Counties: Delta, Eagle, Garfield, Gunnison, Lake, Mesa, Moffat, Montrose, Ouray, Pitkin, Rio Blanco, Routt, San Miguel	Sandy Cruz Phone: 970-254-4960 scruz@mesa.k12.co.us	February 22 & 23, 2008 Mesa State College Grand Junction, CO

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NEWS FROM ANKENY

Climate Change

Conservation Implications of Climate Change: Soil Erosion and Runoff from Cropland

The Soil and Water Conservation Society reviewed the literature and with an expert panel produced a report that connects climate change as a possible cause for set backs in progress, affecting water quality and preservation of soil resources. The report also gives suggestions of what needs to happen to circumvent these setbacks. Suggestions include a new way for conservation planning and highlights areas that more information is needed.

[To view the Executive Summary, click here.](#)

[To view the full report, click here.](#)

Press Release (January 2003)

A changing climate appears to be producing more frequent rainstorms and more intense rainstorms in many parts of the United States. If those precipitation patterns continue, more soil erosion on the nation's agricultural cropland and increased water pollution is likely to result, according to a report released today by an international conservation organization. In a study of projected climate change using mathematical models and examination of precipitation patterns in the United States over the past century, the Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) suggests that conservationists, farmers, and the public should be concerned. "Unless additional protective measures are taken soon," said Craig Cox, executive director of SWCS, "increases in soil erosion and runoff from cropland could reverse much of the progress that we've made in reducing soil degradation and water pollution in recent decades. This likely will require a rethinking of agricultural conservation policies and programs," Cox added.

The report, "**Conservation Implications of Climate Change: Soil Erosion and Runoff from Cropland,**" identifies three promising approaches to begin adapting conservation policy and programs to changing climate and precipitation patterns. First, climatic parameters in conservation planning tools need to be updated immediately. Efforts are already underway in this area, Cox said. Second, targeted investigations need to be undertaken to estimate better just what damage might occur to cropland under different precipitation patterns. Third, conservationists need to evaluate the benefits of building the risk of damage from severe rainstorms into conservation planning through new risk-based assessments tied to particular conservation systems and the environmental outcomes of those systems.

The report notes that mathematical models predict large changes in future precipitation patterns. More importantly, the report says, the climate record for the past century shows that changes in precipitation patterns already are occurring. These changes have been particularly evident in precipitation records since 1970, according to the report. The greatest changes have occurred in the Southwest and in a broad region of

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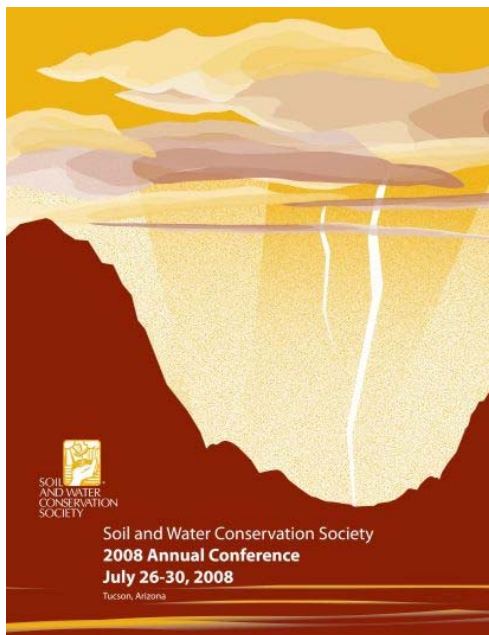
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the country from the central Great Plains, across the Mississippi River, and into the southern Great Lakes Basin. According to the report, increases in soil erosion ranging from 4 percent to 95 percent and increases in storm water runoff from cropland ranging from 6 percent to 100 percent could already be evident in some locations.

The report also notes that the risk posed to cropland by the changing precipitation patterns increases at a greater rate than the increases in precipitation amount or intensity. Just how much this added risk translates into greater soil degradation and water pollution, the report acknowledges, depends on a host of factors, including landscape features and how the land is used and managed

2008 Annual Conference:



The 2008 Annual Conference (<http://www.swcs.org/08ac>) will be held from July 26-30 in Tucson, Arizona.

The conference includes workshops, concurrent sessions, symposia, posters, plenary sessions, and technical tours designed to involve participants to recent developments in the science and art of natural resource conservation and environmental management on working land—the largely privately-owned land comprising working farms, ranches, forests, and rural and urban communities.

Please click on the link above to get further information about the conference.

UPCOMING NATIONAL EVENTS:

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| March 5, 2008 | Michigan Chapter: Seminar @ Michigan State University |
| March 6-8, 2008 | Northern Plains: Regional Meeting , Rapid City, SD |
| May 1, 2008 | Louisiana Chapter: Workshop ; Winnsboro, LA |
| June 14-21, 2008 | Project AWARE |
| July 20-26, 2008 | Iowa Chapter: RAGBRAI |
| July 26-30, 2008 | SWCS Annual Conference ; Tucson, AZ |
| October 20-22, 2008 | Farming with Grass ; Oklahoma City, OK |

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